



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY



A woman stands and speaks while holding papers in a public meeting room, addressing a seated audience.

RIPTA to Hold Final Public Hearings on Proposed Cuts

RIPTA will hold the final of a series of public hearings on proposed service reductions on Wednesday, August 6, at the Barrington Public Library from 12:00pm to 1:30pm and again from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

The proposed statewide service reductions are part of cost-control measures to address a \$17.6 million dollar deficit for FY 2026, which began on July 1, 2025.

The proposed cuts would affect a total of 58 bus routes, including 4 Flex zones and 6 Park & Ride routes. Changes include eliminating entire routes or route segments and decreasing service frequency. Affected routes include: 1, 3, 4, 6, 9x, 12x, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59x, 60, 61x, 63, 64, 65x, 66, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 78, 80, 87, 88, 89, 92, 95x, 203, 231, 281, 301 and the R-Line.

All interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the proposed service changes by August 6, 2025. Comments may be sent to RIPTA, Office of the CEO, 705 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI, 02907. Comments may also be sent to marketing@ripta.com or by calling (401) 784-9500 ext. 1101.

RIPTA's Board of Directors will vote on the proposed reductions at its meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 9:30am.

Visit [RIPTA.com/publichearings](https://www.ripta.com/publichearings) for more information.



A woman stands in front of a RIPTA bus holding a Wave card.

Mayor's Day in the City

RIPTA is excited to join Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, along with the Department of Senior Services, at this year's **Mayor's Day in the City!** The event will be held on **Saturday, August 9** at the **Rhode Island Convention Center from 11am to 2pm. This event is by reservation only, and you must be a Providence senior to attend.** RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will be on

site to process applications for bus passes to qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program identification cards cost \$10.00 (cash only) and are valid for 2 years. For information on how to qualify for this program, customers can call 401-784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare). For more information on **Mayor Brett Smiley's Day in the City** event, please contact the Providence Department of Senior Services at 401-421-2489.



Image of the ACEC award, engraved "1st Place Gold Anchor Award WSP USA for the East Side Transit Tunnel Providence, Rhode Island."

2025 Engineering Excellence Award Winner

RIPTA partnered with engineering company [WSP](#) for work on our East Side Tunnel Rehabilitation project in Providence. We're proud to announce that WSP has won the American Council of

Engineering Companies RI's (ACEC-RI) Engineering Excellence award for their work on the tunnel which included both construction oversight and design. Construction, which lasted from March through October 2024, was successfully completed on time with the help of WSP. We're happy to report that the repairs have brought the tunnel - which sees 250 bus trips each day - back to its original splendor while fortifying the 2,000 ft. long structure for years to come.

RIPTA would like to thank passengers for their patience while routes were detoured to accommodate the tunnel closing last year.



RIPTA rider exiting the bus and a RIPTA bus stop graphic labeled "Rider of the Week" with Sean.

Want to Be Our Next Rider of the Week? 🚌

RIPTA has launched a new series on social media highlighting real Rhode Islanders who use public transit. Why? Because sharing authentic commuting stories can inspire others to:

- 💰 Save money on gas
- 🚗 Free up time spent driving
- 🌍 Cut down on carbon emissions

Whether you're a daily rider or just recently started taking the bus, we'd love to feature your story!

Interested? Reach out to us at marketing@ripta.com.



Recently retired RIPTA driver, Tom Cute, sitting in the driver's seat.

Next Stop: Happy Retirement!

After more than four decades of dedicated service, Thomas G. Cute Jr. has retired from RIPTA, closing out an extraordinary 45-year career marked by leadership, advocacy and a deep commitment to public service.

Tom began his journey at RIPTA on March 17, 1980. Through hard work and consistency, he rose to become the #2 ranked bus operator and #3 in overall seniority across the entire organization—an incredible accomplishment that speaks to his longevity and respect among his peers.

In 2002, Tom showcased his driving skills by winning RIPTA's Bus Rodeo, a driving competition for bus operators, and went on to represent the Authority at the national competition held that year in Las Vegas. His commitment to excellence extended beyond the wheel; from 1998 to 2000, he contributed to both the Scheduling and Training departments, helping train future operators and prepare them for obtaining their Commercial Driver's Licenses.

A strong advocate for his colleagues, Tom was elected to the [A.T.U 618/618a - Providence RI](#) Executive Board in 1991 and again from 1993 to 1996. His union leadership continued as he served as Vice President from 2002 to 2014, and later as President/Business Agent from 2015 through 2020. In every role, Tom was known for his steady guidance and dedication to improving the working conditions for all RIPTA employees.

Throughout his career, Tom remained committed to both his fellow employees and the public he served every day. On the last day of his shift, he was surprised by dozens of friends, family members, and coworkers who came to celebrate as he pulled into RIPTA headquarters for the final time.

Congratulations, Tom, and thank you for 45 years of remarkable service behind the wheel!

Click [here](#) to watch his sendoff.



RIPTA employee holds up bus pass during a How to Ride travel training session.

Photo ID Road Trips for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Reduced Fare applications for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to get to our office in Kennedy Plaza. Staff also provide travel training.

Reduced Fare Photo ID Wave cards cost \$10 and are valid for two years. Replacement cards are \$20.00. [Click here](#) to view the schedule for upcoming RIPTA Photo ID Road Trips.

RIPTA staff will process Photo ID Wave card applications at the following location:

- **WEST WARWICK** Thursday, August 14 • 10am - 12pm | West Warwick Senior Center I
145 Washington Street

For information on how to qualify for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities, customers can call (401) 784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare).



Rider Alert Graphic.

SERVICE ALERTS

Holiday Service

RIPTA Observes Victory Day RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, August 11 in observance of Victory Day. All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday, except for the Customer Service Kiosk in the Newport Transportation Center. Click [here](#) for details.

Detours

Foo Fest 2025: Saturday, August 9

Routes 6, 20, 22, and the R-Line will be detoured all day and night. Empire Street will be closed during this time.

Restoration Worship Ministries Summerfest: Saturday, August 9

Route 1 will be detoured from 10am to 3pm.

Dominican Parade: Sunday, August 10

Route 6 and the R-Line will be on detour from 8am to 1pm.

East Greenwich Main Street Stroll: Thursday, August 21

Routes 14 and 16 will be detoured from 5pm to 8pm.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://www.ripta.com/alerts) for details on upcoming detours.